The Ramagundam Thermal Power Project (520 MW) being promoted by M/s BPL Power Projects has been accorded techno-economic clearance of CEA on 26.6.1997 at an estimated completion cost of US$ 369.30 million + Rs. 1073.56 crores (@ 1 US$ = Rs.35.50). The amended and restated Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is awaiting statutory consent of Andhta Pradesh Electricty Regulatory Commission (APERC). The promoters of the project have still not achieved financial closure. Work relating to rehabilitation and resettlement of land oustees had been completed and some civil works relating to major building foundations for the Turbo Generator Building boiler and bunker and chimney foundations has been completed. The payment security mechanism for the project is being discussed between the APTRANSCO and Financial Institutions.

The Power generated from both the above projects will be fed into the State Grid.

Purchase of Hawk AJTs from Britain

*246. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any deal for purchase of 60 Hawk AJTs from Britain has been finalised;

(b) if so, at what cost;

(c) whether the cost has been disproportionately hiked;

(d) if so, what was the original cost and what is the purchase price thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the hike in price?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.